

REMARKS

Claims 5-11 and 18-21 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Allowable claims 19 and 20 have been written in independent form. Claims 5-6 and 18 are amended to depend from allowed/allowable claims. Claims 1-4 and 12-17 are canceled, and claim 21 is added. Claims 7-9 are allowed. Claims 7 and 19-20 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 7-9 are allowed and that claims 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This Amendment cancels claims 1-4 and 12-17, changes the dependency of claims 5-6 to depend from allowed claim 7, rewrites claims 19-20 into independent form, changes the dependency of claim 18 to depend from allowable claim 19 and adds new claim 21 which recites the features of claim 18 but depends from allowable claim 20. Therefore, this Amendment places the claims into condition for immediate allowance.

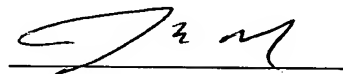
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-11 and 18-21, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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